



Worker Personnel Reliability Program

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

The U.S. Army and its contractors use the utmost care when handling chemical weapons in order to protect workers, the public and the environment. A major part of this commitment to safety and security is the Army's Personnel Reliability Program (PRP). The purpose of this program is to ensure that each person who performs duties involving chemical agents meets and maintains the highest possible standards of reliability.

Many of the workers who currently store and safeguard chemical weapons at Blue Grass Army Depot are in jobs that require maintaining PRP standards. When the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant goes into operation to destroy the chemical weapons, many of the new employees who work in the plant will also have to meet the strict requirements of the PRP.



Because safety is the number one priority, chemical weapons workers require extensive training and must demonstrate the highest levels of personal responsibility.

Determining whether a person qualifies to work in a PRP position includes initial evaluations at the time of hiring and continuing evaluations once the person is employed. This evaluation includes medical tests and an extensive background investigation.

The Army uses the following standards and requirements to determine if an individual is suitable for the PRP:

- Physical competence, mental alertness and technical proficiency commensurate with duty requirements
- Evidence of dependability in accepting responsibilities and effectively performing in an approved manner
- Flexibility in adjusting to changes in the working environment
- Evidence of good social adjustment, emotional stability and ability to exercise sound judgment in meeting adverse or emergency situations
- Positive attitude toward chemical duties and the PRP

To determine if an individual is suitable for the PRP, the Army looks for potentially disqualifying information. This is any information regarding but not limited to a person's physical, mental, emotional status, conduct or character, on- and off-duty and at any time during employment, which may cast doubt about an individual's ability or reliability to perform chemical duties.

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Any of the following could disqualify individuals from the PRP. The list is not all encompassing and contains only examples of disqualifying factors.

- a. **Alcohol dependent/alcohol abuse**
- b. **Alcohol-related incidents**
- c. **Drug abuse**
- d. **Negligence or delinquency in performance of duty**
- e. **Conviction of, or involvement in, a serious incident** ("Serious incidents" include, but are not limited to, assault, sexual misconduct, financial irresponsibility, inordinate number of traffic tickets, and child or spouse abuse)
- f. **Medical condition**
- g. **Hypnotherapy**
- h. **Serious progressive illnesses**
- i. **Poor attitude or lack of motivation**
- j. **Suicide attempt**
- k. **Inability to wear protective equipment**

The PRP helps ensure that workers employed at the chemical weapons destruction plant are reliable, effective and competent to perform the important mission of safely destroying the chemical weapons stockpile.



Control room operators, like these at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland, are responsible for safe operation of the plant and for monitoring personnel who work in hazardous areas. They must also meet the high standards of the Army's Personnel Reliability Program.